

through the Jazz Development Workshop, where she was taught by Marcus Belgrave.

She then came to Washington, D.C., where she received a degree from Howard University in Jazz Studies in 1979. At Howard, she studied under composers Thomas Kerr, pianists Raymond Jackson, John Malichi, Fred Irby, Arthur Dawkins, and Komla Amoaku. She then left D.C. for New York City, where she learned from bop pianist Kenny Barron. She then moved on to study ethnomusicology at the University of Pittsburgh, earning her masters there. She returned to New York, where she began touring with Mary Wilson and the Supremes in 1982. She later helped charter the Black Rock Coalition and the Brooklyn M-Base movement. She would collaborate on several works with a fellow charter member of that group, Steve Coleman.

Her own albums have displayed a depth of range and skill. Her first album, *The Printmakers*, displays what many have called an avant-garde talent. In 1995, her album *Twenty-One*, won the Soul Train's Lady of Soul Award for album of the year. In 2008, Ms. Allen won a Guggenheim Fellowship in Composition, which allowed her to release her composition *Refractions: Flying Toward the Sound*, which celebrates the work of Cecil Taylor, McCoy Tyner, and Herbie Hancock. She is the youngest person and the only woman to receive the Danish JAZZPAR award.

In addition to the massive number of awards she has received, which are simply too numerous to mention here, Ms. Allen has also been a remarkable mentor to younger jazz musicians. One example of such efforts is found in the powerful *For the Healing of the Nations*, a tribute to the survivors of 9/11, which was performed with Howard University's Afro-Blue Jazz Choir. In addition to her work with her alma mater, she has been a professional educator for many years, having taught jazz at the University of Michigan, and presently at the University of Pittsburgh.

Despite this list of accomplishments, she has yet to slow down and take a break. She recently released a recording celebrating our collective home town: *Grand River Crossings: Motown & Motor City Inspirations*. On May 10, 2014, she received an Honorary Doctorate of Music from the Berklee College of Music.

Geri Allen is a living national jazz treasure, and I encourage my colleagues to learn more about her tremendous contributions to the most American of art forms.

#### RECOGNIZING SUNSHINE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL'S SESQUICENTENNIAL

#### HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 18, 2014*

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sunshine Elementary School's sesquicentennial.

On October 24th, Sunshine Elementary School will celebrate 150 years of providing the children of Springfield, Missouri, with an outstanding education. Sunshine Elementary has always striven to provide children with the tools and skills necessary for them to be successful in life.

Though many changes have occurred in the past 150 years, one thing has remained constant, and that is the dedication of Sunshine Elementary faculty and staff to their students. Past and current faculty and staff have contributed long hours of committed service in providing each Sunshine Elementary student with the best education possible.

Sunshine Elementary would not be nearly as successful without the help and support provided by the surrounding Springfield community. Its strong ties to the neighborhood have allowed parents and faculty to work closely together, creating an environment especially conducive to learning and success.

Sunshine Elementary started out as a one-room building 150 years ago and over the years has grown into a great elementary school for Springfield students.

I congratulate Sunshine Elementary School as the school celebrates 150 years.

#### LWCF AND WILDERNESS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

#### HON. RUSH HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 18, 2014*

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of two of our country's most transformational conservation laws, the Wilderness Act and the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Act.

Earlier this month I celebrated the Anniversary of LWCF and the Wilderness Act at the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge in New Jersey. This area was the first wilderness established within the Department of the Interior following the passage of the Wilderness Act.

LWCF money has also contributed to the preservation of the Great Swamp, and in fact LWCF money totaling more than 400 million dollars has come to New Jersey. In other states around the country the LWCF has contributed even more.

I, along with Secretary Jewell and many members of Congress, have advocated making permanent full funding for the LWCF. We must remember that over 50 years, in only ONE year has the LWCF received the full authorized funding. The idea was to take revenues from depleted resources, in other words from off shore oil drilling and mineral extraction, and use that to preserve other resources, land.

Ecologists have made it especially clear in recent years that we really must have interlocking tracts of land, what Frederick Law Olmstead called emerald necklaces, across the country. It is not enough to protect only isolated places; that is not enough for migrating species and even plant communities, who must interact over long distances.

Wilderness is important for so many reasons. Wilderness provides more than simply beautiful vistas, it is how nature heals herself and it is critically important for human well-being. What we forget is that preserving only a few headliner areas is insufficient. And that is why Congress really must reauthorize and fully fund the Land and Water Conservation Fund because it is critically important to this whole picture.

One of my proudest moments in my now 16 year career in congress was in the early

months in office when some of us junior members managed to revive the state side matching program, of the LWCF the landslide conservation program.

It certainly was a proud moment and since then I have led an annual effort to fund the LWCF.

This year 170 members of congress joined me in a letter to appropriators to provide funding for the LWCF. But it is not enough if we don't reauthorize it now and provide full funding.

This Congress I am also proud to be the sponsor of two wilderness bills of national importance, the Udall-Eisenhower Arctic Wilderness Act, to permanently designate the Arctic Refuge Coastal Plain as wilderness, and the Red Rocks Wilderness Act, to protect as wilderness Utah's Red Rocks area.

We're going to get these bills passed one way or another, we must. It is so important, not just because of the naturalness that is preserved, but because of what it says about our country.

The Wilderness Act, when Hubert Humphrey and others introduced it, sat around on the legislative agenda for years—Congress after congress. It was the support of citizen activists that created the momentum necessary to pass The Wilderness Act. And it will be the work of activists like those with the Alaska Wilderness League, the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance, and the Wilderness Society that will continue to work for the passage of wilderness bills.

The Wilderness Act provides some of the strongest land protections in the world by recognizing wilderness areas as where the earth and its community of life are untrammled by humans, where humans ourselves are visitors who do not remain.

From the Great Swamp Wilderness in New Jersey to the Arctic Refuge in Alaska—wilderness is essential to safeguard our nation's most wild and beautiful areas, not simply to preserve beautiful scenery, but to give nature the necessary resilience to sustain itself, and also to give humans places to renew and master ourselves.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF ST. JOHN A.M.E. CHURCH'S 144TH ANNIVERSARY

#### HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 18, 2014*

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor and pleasure to extend my sincere congratulations to the congregation of St. John African Methodist Episcopal Church in Columbus, Georgia as the church's membership and leadership celebrates a remarkable 144 years. St. John A.M.E. Church will usher in this milestone with a celebration, aptly named "Stung By The Spirit," and a day of service on Sunday, September 21, 2014.

St. John A.M.E. Church was founded as St. John's Chapel in 1870 and was located on Fifth Avenue in Columbus. Reverend John G. Mitchell served as the first faith leader to the founding congregation, a dynamic group of faithful and steadfast Reconstruction-era Christians who helped bring the church to life.

The church grew and evolved over the next century and on September 30, 1980, it was